

APPROVED DECEMBER 2, 2009

At 7:05 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Michael Nygren, Pat Martel, Laurie Allore, Peg Pinkham, Sue D'Eon, Selectmen Greta St. Germain, also present were Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, Ida Keane School Board Representative and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 Budget Committee meeting with two typing corrections was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 7-1. St. Germain abstained as she was not present at this meeting.

A motion was made by Nygren that the Committee consider going through the smaller budgets first, and leave the larger budgets which will probably take more time, such as Police, Fire, and Highway for another night. This way the Committee can make their recommendations and get the bulk of their recommendations completed. Kohlhofer was in favor of this and seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous 8-0 in favor. The Budget Committee then proceeded with the next budget in numerical order

4215- AMBULANCE SERVICE

A motion was made to recommend the request of \$5,500 by Pinkham. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0 in favor.

4240-BUILDING INSPECTOR

Nygren spoke about his recommendation for the Selectmen to think about reducing the work hours to 36 hours a week for the Town. By looking at the revenue at the end of the year and the trending, they may want to reevaluate these positions. He is not recommending any reduction of the benefits. He just felt that if this trend continues that maybe there should be less hours and to close the building one day a week for a savings. If the Selectmen feel the revenue continues as it is trending and is not there to justify the hours then maybe they can look at making these changes. Kimball recommended \$25,000.00 in the wage line for this department to be self supporting by the revenue it generates and using fees generated as salary. Nygren thinks \$25,000 is unreasonable. He would rather reduce hours and adjust accordingly. Pinkham agrees that this needs to go back into the Selectmen's hands for a decision. Pinkham made a motion for the recommendation of \$49,280, which was the Selectmen's recommended budget. This was seconded by Allore seconded. The vote was 6-2. St. Germain and Kimball voted nay.

4290-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There was a discussion about the stipend in this budget line. Pinkham asked if there was any consideration about sharing this stipend with the Deputy. Carlson said there hasn't been any discussion about this by the Selectmen. A motion to recommend the \$6,900. was made by Nygren. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was 7-1. Kohlhofer voted nay. There then was a motion to reconsider this decision by Nygren. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous to revisit this recommendation. After further discussion Allore asked that with the large ice storm we had last year and she had questions regarding the meals and food supply. Kimball said Hannaford's and Wal-Mart also had donated a lot of food. Allore said the some of the people working at the shelter personally bought food with no reimbursement. Pinkham asked

if the Committee needed to table the vote as there were missing values for the 2008 costs for the ice storm, and perhaps the Committee needed to get up to date expenditures. Nygren said even if there is money that is not spent; this money will go into the General Fund at the end of the year. A motion was then made by Nygren to recommend \$6900.00 for the Emergency Management budget. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4316-STREET LIGHTING

A motion to recommend \$4000.00 for Street Lighting was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4323-SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

A motion to recommend \$216,000 for Solid Waste Collection was made by Pinkham, seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4324-SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

A motion to recommend \$118,095 for Solid Waste Disposal was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4414-ANIMAL CONTROL

A motion was made by Allore to recommend \$6640.00 for line 4414-301 Patrol Wages. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 8-0. A motion to recommended \$9739.00 for 4414 Animal Control total budget was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4415-HEALTH OFFICER

Kohlhofer asked after Trudie Butler resigned as Health Officer, if this position needed to be posted. Carlson said no that the Selectmen can make an appointment, and vote to appoint Thom Roy who had been Deputy Health Officer, and he assumed the position as Health Officer. Kohlhofer then asked if there is going to be a mosquito grant and where the money comes from. Carlson hasn't done this yet and the money would come from the State. Carlson said Warrant Article for Mosquito Control is going to be the same figure as last year of \$49,550. Pinkham asked if there is a plan to honor Trudy Butler for all her service to the Town. Carlson said they were going to at last year's Town meeting but she didn't go to this meeting. A motion was made to recommend \$725 for the Health Officer budget by Martel. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4442-DIRECT ASSISTANCE

St. Germain asked if more funds needed to be added to the case lines. Carlson felt it wasn't necessary to do this at this time. There was discussion about how to allocate per case. A motion to recommend \$19,900 for Direct Assistance was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4445-VENDOR PAYMENT TO SOCIAL SERVICES

All the information for the Budget Committee's review will be given out later tonight by Carlson. The recommendation on this budget will be held for another meeting.

4520-PARKS & RECREATION

Martel asked about the \$10,000 that hasn't been spent in Field Maintenance from last year's figure. Nygren thought the previous years spending was due to the drainage problem at the fields. The salary line was gone through by the Committee and there were thoughts of lowering and raising this line. A motion by was made by Nygren on 4520-001 wages from \$19,200 to \$16,500 to keep the salary the same as last year. Nygren said they should consider using the counselors in training if there is an increase in attendance and not have to hire another counselor. Pinkham said she agrees to hold the wages as everyone else in Town is holding and she seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

A motion for \$2700 on Summer Programs line 4520-002 was made by St. Germain. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. A motion to amend this amount was made by Kohlhofer to \$2800 due to a calculating error. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 8-0. A motion to recommend \$2800 in Summer Program line 4520-002 was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 8-0. A motion to recommend \$47,280.00 for the total for 4520-Parks and Recreation budget was made by Martel. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4550-LIBRARY

There was a suggestion made by Kohlhofer regarding using the library for the Historic Museum overflow to help with their problem and this might offset costs to the Museum thus eventually saving the Town money. A motion to recommend \$52,000 wage line 4550-001 was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0. A motion to recommend \$100,500.00 for the total of 4550 Library budget was made by Martel. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4583-PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

A motion was made to approve 4583 Patriotic Purposes in the amount of \$2,335 by Martel. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4610-CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kimball looking at this budget wanted to consider cutting the Conservation Project Fund by \$500.00 as this line money hasn't been spent in the past.

Kohlhofer asked what the Conservation Escrow Funds (which has accumulative balance of \$192,422.43) can be spent on legally? Carlson read the statute 36-A:4 to the Committee regarding this fund that read: *Said Commission may receive gifts of money and property, both real and personal, in the name of the city or town, subject to the approval of the local governing body, such gifts to be managed and controlled by the commission for the purpose of this section. Said commission may acquire the name of the town or city, subject to the approval of the local governing body, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise, lease, or otherwise, the fee in such*

land or water rights, or any lesser interest, development right, easement, covenant, or other contractual right including conveyances with conditions, limitations or reversions, as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, or limit the future land and water areas within their city or town, and shall manage and control the same, but the city or town or commission shall not have the right to condemn property for these purposes.

Kohlhofer then asked if they could spend this money at the cemeteries and also maintain Town Forest or any other Town's Open Space. Martel said they could probably do areas around the Cemetery or their outside edges. Carlson said this Statute is pretty broad. Carlson read another section: *the commission shall conduct researches into its local land and water areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work. It shall keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas within the city of town, as the case may be, with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such areas, including land owned by the state or lands owned by a town or city.*

Kohlhofer said if they want to spend this money do they have to have a Public Hearing. Carlson said their budget residual doesn't require a Public Hearing. In order to purchase land they would have to have a Public Hearing. Kohlhofer asked to get an updated figure of the amount into this account. He wanted to know if there was any expenditure from this account.

Kohlhofer didn't think it was right for any agency (it is not their fault the way the law is written) to accumulate money like this and spend it however they choose.

The Committee went through the line items and thought about cutting money out and having the Commission use the escrow fund money. Martel thought they could operate their department on their budget residual. Carlson said the Treasurer is custodian of this fund, and would have to pay their bills from this account on vote of the Commission as she has control of the checkbook. Carlson then went on to read from RSA36-A:5, *A town or city, having established a conservation commission as authorized by RSA 36-A:2, may appropriate money as deemed necessary for the purpose of this chapter.(which means Town Meeting vote). The whole or any part of money so appropriated in any year and any gifts of money received pursuant to RSA 36-A:4 may be placed in a conservation fund and allowed to accumulate from year to year. Money may be expended from said fund by the conservation commission for the purposes of this chapter without further approval of the town meeting.*

Nygren stated that he felt by law they have to pay dues and membership and the money in this fund (\$300) needs to stay and he feels to keep the money in other lines for running the department except for projects, meetings and seminars.

A motion to recommend cutting line 4610-006 to have a \$1.00 balance in this line was made by Nygren. This was seconded by seconded by Allore. The vote was 7-1. Pinkham voted nay. A motion to reduce 4610-500 line to \$1.00 was made by Nygren. The vote was seconded by all in favor, vote 7-1. Pinkham voted nay.

A motion to recommend 4610 Conservation Commission budget to \$824.00 was made by Martel. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was 7-1. Pinkham voted nay.

4711-001 DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$135,000 for the Debt Service Principal budget. The was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4721-001 DEBT SERVICE INTEREST

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$76,726 for Debt Service Interest. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

4723-INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Nygren asked if this figure is a realistic figure if the Selectmen go to twice a year billing. Carlson thought that it is probably high. Pinkham didn't know if they could project on this until decision is made on twice a year taxing and asked if they need to table voting on this tonight. Nygren felt that this figure could be changed at a later date if necessary. Kohlhofer thought maybe they could delay this recommendation. The next Public Hearing is November 19, 2009 at 7:30 PM on twice a year taxing. No decision will be made that night as there will not be a full Selectmen Board at this meeting.

Allore stated that she has a lot of questions she wants to ask regarding the Police Department budget and asked if the Committee could change the date of this budget review to another week as she is going to be away the week they are now scheduled for. Pinkham thought this was a fair request. Kohlhofer said they could wait another week to do this budget and they will change the date to December 9, 2009.

Carlson said one of the Selectmen may be presenting the Highway Department budget on December 2nd to the Budget Committee in lieu of the Road Agent.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary